A STUDY OF FUNGUS POISONS.

By the use of a number of deleterious agents, Mr. J. F. Clark was able to determine approximately their toxic effect upon the germination and development of certain fungi. His results were published in the November and December numbers of the *Botanical Gazette*. He used five common moulds, viz: *Aspergillus flavus*, *Sterigmatocystis nigro*, *Oedocephalum albidum*, *Penicillium glaucum* and *Botrytis vulgaris*, on account of their ability to grow normally under the conditions imposed by the experiments. Twenty-eight chemical substances were used, including half a dozen acids, eight hydroxids, three oxidizing agents, five sulfates of the strongly toxic metals, etc. A table of results is compiled, giving the coefficients of injury, inhibition, and death point. The author's summary includes many points, three of which we may quote, viz: "(1) Fungi are in general much more resistant to most deleterious agents than the higher plants. In the case of the mineral acids a concentration of from two to four hundred times the strength fatal to the higher plants is required to inhibit the germination of mould spores under favorable conditions. (2) Different species of fungi present great differences of resistance to many agents. Of the agents tested in this study, $NiSO_4$ permitted the greatest specific variation and dichloracetic acid the least. (3) Particular forms of the same species present very different powers of resistance, depending probably on previous environment."

Charles E. Bessey.
The University of Nebraska.

THE LABORATORY OF THE U. S. FISH COMMISSION AT BEAUFORT, N. C.

The laboratory of the United States Fish Commission, at Beaufort, on the coast of North Carolina, will be reopened for work on the first of June, and will remain open until October. The laboratory is designed for research in marine biology (zoology, botany, physiology), and, for the present, is open to men only. The collecting outfit is particularly good, including steam launch, sailboat, skiffs, dredges, trawl, seines, surface nets, etc. The indoor equipment embraces the usual apparatus, glassware, and reagents, provided by marine laboratories. The more important works on the systematic zoology and natural history of the forms that are found on this part of the coast, will be on hand; and the current numbers of the more commonly used journals will also be received. Naturalists working at the station will find a collection of identified forms, illustrative of the fauna and flora of the region, together with a record of breeding times and local habitat of the species.

Beaufort is a pleasant village to which a few people come for a quiet vacation. The collections of the earlier naturalists, and the work of the Marine Laboratory of the Johns Hopkins University, stationed here under Professor Brooks for many years, made known the interesting character of the fauna—which is exceedingly varied and abundant, including most of the forms described for the South Atlantic coast. Research at the laboratory is untrammeled, it being assumed that every occupant of a table will, in the course of his investigations, add to our knowledge of the natural history of this part of the coast. Inquiries and applications for tables, for which there is no charge, should be addressed to the Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries, Hon. George M. Bowers, or to the director of the laboratory.

H. V. Wilson,
Director of the Laboratory.
University of North Carolina,
Chapel Hill, N. C.

PROFESSOR DEWAR ON SOLID HYDROGEN.

We are able to print in the present number of Science an interesting address by Professor Dewar before the Royal Institution on his work on the 'Liquefaction of Hydrogen.' Professor Dewar has continued his researches and gave a further lecture before the Royal Institution on February 6th, an account of which we take from the London *Times*.

The theatre of the Royal Institution was crowded to its utmost capacity to hear Professor Dewar lecture on 'Solid Hydrogen.' Sir Frederick Bramwell was in the chair, and among those present were Lord Lister, Lord Rayleigh, Sir F. Abel, Sir W. Crookes, Sir B. Baker, Sir Henry Mance, Professor Odling, Mr. T. W. Swan, the Solicitor-General for Scotland, Dr.